

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A device for feeding an essentially rectangular piece of cloth prior to ironing to a feeder comprising:

a boom extending transversely of the direction of conveyance of to the feeder,
and

wherein the boom comprises a boom conveyor for conveying the piece of cloth across the boom in the longitudinal direction thereof, wherein the piece of cloth stretches across the boom,

said device having, at one end of the boom, a first feed conveyor having a feeding end situated in front of the boom seen in the direction of conveyance of to the feeder,

the feed conveyor designed to receive, at the feeding end, a straightened front edge of the piece of cloth and transfer the piece of cloth therefrom to the boom conveyor, and

a first turning device provided between the boom conveyor and the end of the feed conveyor opposite the feeding end for turning and transferring the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth from the feed conveyor to the boom conveyor.

12. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 11, wherein the boom has an opposite end, and a second feed conveyor is located at the opposite end of the boom for receiving a straightened front edge of a second piece of cloth and transferring

the second piece of cloth to the boom conveyor, and a second turning device provided between the boom conveyor and the second feed conveyor.

13. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 12, wherein the second feed conveyor has a second feeding end, and each feeding end is located between the ends of the boom when it is receiving a piece of cloth.

14. (Currently amended) A device according to any one of claims 11-13, wherein the angle between the direction of the first feed conveyor and the direction of conveyance of to the feeder is in a range between 190° and 260°, and that the turning device is configured for receiving the front edge of the piece of cloth from the first feed conveyor and then turn the front edge of the piece of cloth through an angle in the aforesaid range, the front edge being subsequently received by the boom conveyor.

15. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 12, wherein each feed conveyor, each turning device, and the boom conveyor are independent units each having a securing means and guide.

16. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 12, wherein each feed conveyor comprises two parallel conveyor belts that run synchronously.

17. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 12, wherein each turning device comprises a pair of mutually independently operating squeezers.

18. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 12, wherein the boom conveyor comprises a tilting squeezer device having one pair of squeezers being able to securely squeeze pieces of cloth from the first turning device and another pair of squeezers being able to securely squeeze pieces of cloth from the second turning device.

19. (Currently amended) A device according to any one of claims 12 and 16-18, further comprising a separate guide means for each feed conveyor and having an extension oriented in the same direction as the direction of conveyance of the respective feed conveyor; whereby the piece of cloth is, by the transfer of the piece of cloth by the respective turning device from the feed conveyor to the boom, conveyed across the respective guide means, and thereby avoiding that adverse folds are imparted to the piece of cloth prior to transferring the piece of cloth to the boom conveyor.

20. (Currently amended) A method of feeding essentially a rectangular piece of cloth to a feeder prior to ironing, comprising the steps of:

feeding when in a feeding position, a straightened front edge of the piece of cloth to a feed conveyor,

transporting the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth to a second position, seizing by a turning device the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth and turning with an essentially horizontal movement the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth from the second position to a third position, and

taking by a boom conveyor when in the third position the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth and

conveying it across a boom.

21. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 14, wherein the range is preferably between 210° and 240°.

22. (New) A method of introducing essentially rectangular pieces of cloth to a feeder prior to ironing, comprising the steps of:

conveying by a first feed conveyor a straightened front edge of an essentially rectangular piece of cloth,

seizing by a turning device the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth from the first feed conveyor,

turning with an essentially horizontal movement the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth,

transferring to a boom conveyor from the turning device the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth, and

conveying the essentially rectangular piece of cloth across a boom.

23. (New) A method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the boom has two ends, and the transferring step includes:

transferring, at one of the two ends of the boom, the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth to the boom conveyor from the turning device.

24. (New) A method as claimed in claim 23 wherein the first feed conveyor has a feeding end in which the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth is received, and comprising the additional step of:

placing, prior to receiving the piece of cloth, the feeding end at a position in front of the boom where the feeding end is situated between the two ends of the boom.

25. (New) A method as claimed in claim 23 comprising the additional steps of:

conveying by a second feed conveyor a straightened front edge of a second essentially rectangular piece of cloth,

seizing by a second turning device the straightened front edge of the second piece of cloth from the second feed conveyor,

turning with an essentially horizontal movement the straightened front edge of the second piece of cloth,

transferring to the boom conveyor at the other end of the boom the straightened front edge of the second piece of cloth, and

conveying the second essentially rectangular piece of cloth across the boom.